

34. The system of claim 33, further comprising:
a dialogue manager processor that initiates an action based on the validity information.

35. The system of claim 28, further comprising:
a language model database that stores data describing the structure and sequence of words and phrases.

36. The system of claim 28, wherein said numeric language includes digits, natural numbers, alphabets, re-starts, and city/country name phrase classes.--

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 13-36 have been added. For the reasons discussed at the interview, and in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 as containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the recitation "numeric language comprising a set of digits relevant for interpreting and understanding a set of number strings." By the amendment above, Applicants have canceled claims 1-12. The rejection is therefore rendered moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

At paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5-7, 9, and 10 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,970,449 to Alleva et al. ("Alleva"). By the amendment

above, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 5-7, 9, and 10. The rejection of those claims is therefore rendered moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

At paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4 and 8 as being unpatentable over Alleva in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,384 to Huang et al. ("Huang"). By the amendment above, Applicants have cancelled claims 2-4 and 8. The rejection of those claims is therefore rendered moot.

New Claims 13-36

New claims 13-36 are directed to systems and methods that relate to processing using a numeric language including a subset of a vocabulary. Support for the concept of a "numeric language" can be found, for example, at col. 3, line 25 to col. 4, line 8, and col. 5, line 23 to col. 6, line 17. In general, the concept of the "numeric language" enables the system to place a particular emphasis on the recognition of a small subset of the active vocabulary that is relevant to the numeric recognition task at hand. The identification of a numeric language enables enhancement of the speech recognition process.

Applicants submit that the claimed invention is distinguishable from the teachings of the primary reference Alleva. In general, Alleva is focused on the normalization of text. This normalization process is not a part of the speech recognition process. Rather, the normalization process is operative on the output from a speech recognition process. Thus, the teachings of Alleva are not relevant to Applicants' claimed invention.

Huang, on the other hand, was used by the Examiner as a secondary reference primarily for the teachings of an acoustic model database having hidden Markov models. Even assuming that Huang teaches all that the Examiner alleges, Applicants submit that the teachings of Huang do not make up for the shortcomings of Alleva as discussed above. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that new claims 13-36 are distinguishable over any combination of Alleva and Huang.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

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